

Masthead Logo

The Palimpsest

Volume 39 | Number 3

Article 3

3-1-1958

Sanford Calvin Yoder

Sanford C. Yoder

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ir.uiowa.edu/palimpsest>

Part of the [United States History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Yoder, Sanford C. "Sanford Calvin Yoder." *The Palimpsest* 39 (1958), 144-144.
Available at: <https://ir.uiowa.edu/palimpsest/vol39/iss3/3>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the State Historical Society of Iowa at Iowa Research Online. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Palimpsest by an authorized administrator of Iowa Research Online. For more information, please contact lib-ir@uiowa.edu.



SANFORD CALVIN YODER

Probably the first Yoder family arrived in Pennsylvania by 1714. Others soon followed, coming from ancestral Switzerland or the Palatinate. In 1923 the family historian, C. Z. Mast, estimated that there had been 100,00 descendants of these early Yoder immigrants. The first immigrants were members of the Amish faith, and perhaps one-fifth of their descendants are either Amish, Mennonite, or Dunkard.

One of the outstanding representatives is Sanford Calvin Yoder, whose ancestors emigrated from Switzerland to Pennsylvania in 1742. Migrating from Holmes County, Ohio, his family settled in Johnson County, Iowa, in the early 1870's. Here, in Sharon Township, Sanford Calvin was born and spent his boyhood years in an Amish home. In 1893 the family moved to Wright County, Iowa, where they helped establish a more progressive Amish church than the one they left in Sharon Township.

Pioneering was in the blood of the family. In 1905 "S. C." with his family settled in Washington, where his experiences later enabled him to write his delightful book, *Horse Trails Along the Desert* (1954). After a sojourn in western Nebraska, he was called back to his home community in Johnson County, Iowa, to serve as a minister in the East Union Mennonite Church. During the last forty years, Sanford Yoder's interests have been centered largely in the mission and educational activities of his denomination.

For many years Mr. Yoder served as secretary of the Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities. In this capacity he made two trips to South America. These experiences are recorded in *Down South America Way* (1943). His trip to India in 1949 resulted in an entertaining and instructive travelogue, *Eastward to the Sun* (1953). The account in this issue of THE PALIMPSEST is chapter one of his forthcoming autobiography.

From 1923 to 1940 Sanford Yoder served as president of Goshen College, Goshen, Indiana. He and his wife, the former Emma Stutsman of Sharon Township, reside near the campus, and as president-emeritus, he daily goes to his office, where he writes and carries on his correspondence. Active in the Mennonite Historical Society, he has written *For Conscience Sake* (1940), a study of Mennonite migrations resulting from World War I. He received his B.A. from the University of Iowa, a B.D. and an honorary D.D. from the Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, and his S.T.D. from Gordon Divinity School. He is listed in *Who's Who in America*.

MELVIN GINGERICH